

Serial No. 09/812,850

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing and claim 1 has been amended, claims 4 and 5 have been canceled and claims 21-23 have been added. Therefore, by this amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-22 are pending and under consideration.

Status of the Claims:

The Office Action mailed October 10, 2006 rejected:

claims 1-7, 12 15-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (U.S. Patent 6,633,759), Kikinis (U.S. Patent 6,553,410) and Hendricks (U.S. Patent 5,986,690);

claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi, Kikinis, Hendricks and Helfman (U.S. Patent 6,119,135);

claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi, Kikinis, Hendricks and Kunkel (U.S. Patent 6,477,579);

claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi, Kikinis and Marmor (U.S. Patent 6,601,108);

claims 13, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi, Kikinis, Hendricks, and Jungck (U.S. Patent 6,728,785); and

claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi, Kikinis, Hendricks and Betts (U.S. Patent 4,734,920).

Examiner Interview:

At the request of the Applicants, an Examiner Interview was held on January 25, 2007. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that further amendments to the claims may overcome the cited prior art. In response to the Examiner's suggestion, claim 1 has been amended and reconsideration of the rejections listed above is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections:

Currently amended claim 1 recites "means for converting a data file into an intermediate data file constituted by a part of information in an image in which a page constitutes a unit and said intermediate data file is configured to have contents which are layered" at lines 9-11. As stated in the last paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action, Kobayashi does not show a means of

Serial No. 09/812,850

converting a data file into an intermediate data file. With respect to Kikinis, the Office Action cited Fig. 4 as converting an HTML file to an HTL file. Kikinis does not, however, teach or suggest "said intermediate data file is configured to have contents which are layered" as recited above in claim 1. Hendricks disclosed a "subsystem for placing text in a video signal format and a subsystem for receiving and selecting text that is placed in the video signal format" according to lines 4-7 of the Abstract. However, nothing has been cited or found in Hendricks that teaches or suggests the features recited in lines 9-11 of claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that Kobayashi, Kikinis, Hendricks, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 1 and claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 15-17 and 19 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features, which are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 15-17 and 19 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art, individually or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

On pages 3-13 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 13, 14, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over various combinations of Kobayashi, Kikinis, Hendricks, Helfman, Kunkei, Marmor, Jungck and Betts.

Claims 9, 13, 14, 18 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Further, none of the additional references relied on by the Examiner teach or suggest the features of the present claimed invention as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 9, 13, 14, 18 and 20 are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, individually or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

New claim 21 recites "converting the data file into an intermediate file having hierarchical layers based on the layout information, each layer containing a different portion of the at least one of character and image data" at lines 4-6. It is submitted, for at least the reasons discussed above, that claim 21 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, individually or in combination.

New claim 22 recites "at least two layers of data representing at least one of characters and images, each layer including layout information defining display formatting for the data in the layer, where the data in each layer is mutually exclusive with respect to other layers in said data

Serial No. 09/812,850

structure" at lines 2-4. It is submitted, for at least the reasons discussed above, that claim 22 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, individually or in combination.

New claim 23 recites "transmitting a layered intermediate data file, converted from the page information of the book-type contents" at lines 5-6. It is submitted, for at least the reasons discussed above, that independent claim 23 and dependent claim 24, which depends therefrom and adds further patentable distinctions, are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, individually or in combination.

New claim 25 recites "receiving, from the portable server, layers of hierarchical data including layout information ... with each layer mutually exclusive with respect to other layers of the hierarchical data" at lines 4-7. It is submitted, for at least the reasons discussed above, that claim 25 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, individually or in combination.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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